

Abstract

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for measuring the organic carbon content (TOC) in a test liquid by irradiating the test liquid, such as ultrapure water, with ultraviolet radiation and measuring the conductivity of the test liquid that changes due to the produced organic acids and carbon dioxide. After the test liquid is irradiated for a fixed time interval with ultraviolet light in an oxidization process vessel, the irradiation is stopped. The flow rate of the test liquid is such that a portion of test liquid is present that has received the complete irradiation from the commencement to the extinguishing of the lighting of the ultraviolet light source. By controlling the flow rate as above, the ultraviolet light irradiation time of the portion of the test liquid that has received the complete irradiation from the commencement to the extinguishing of the light source equalizes the time from the commencement to the extinguishing of the light without having to carry out precise flow rate control. Therefore, the organic carbon content in the test liquid can be found from the change of the conductivity in this part of the test liquid.